



# Employee News

News and Information for Muscatatuck SDC and Madison State Hospital Employees during the transition to community-based services.

November 2002

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## Keep In Mind

MSDC/MSH Info Hotline:

**1-800-903-9822**

## Governor's Commission on Home & Community-Based Services Meeting Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
12/19/02	*Crossroads	10:00-2:00
01/23/03	**IGCS – Conf. Rm. A	10:00-2:00
02/27/03	**IGCS – Conf. Rm. A	10:00-2:00
03/27/03	**IGCS – Conf. Rm. A	10:00-2:00
04/24/03	**IGCS – Conf. Rm. A	10:00-2:00
05/22/03	*Crossroads	10:00-2:00
06/19/03	*Crossroads	10:00-2:00

## Worth Repeating.....

### Governor's Commission on Home and Community-Based Services

The Governor's Commission on Home and Community-Based Services is to develop short and long-term strategies to create or expand community capacity for persons at risk of being institutionalized, or for those currently in an institution or nursing home, within Indiana's long-term care service delivery system.

The Commission has established task forces to carry out its mission.

- Community Living Options — Anne N. Jacoby, Chairperson
- Community Personal Assistance Services and Supports — Kathy Davis, Chairperson
- Children at Risk — Denny Jones, Chairperson
- Housing — John Dickerson, Chairperson
- Transportation and Employment — Curt Wiley, Chairperson

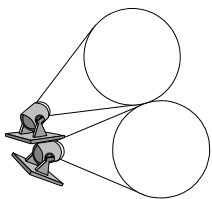
### Contact Information:

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1-800-545-7763  
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[lchurch@fssa.state.in.us](mailto:lchurch@fssa.state.in.us)

[www.in.gov/fssa/community/](http://www.in.gov/fssa/community/)

\*Crossroads Rehabilitation Center  
4740 Kingsway Dr., Indianapolis  
\*\* Indiana Government Center South,  
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis



## **Worth Repeating.....**

### **Highlighting Staff Achievements**

### **Making the grade.....**

Two staff members of Muscatatuck State Developmental Center (MSDC) were recently honored for their scholastic achievements.

Alice Miller and Peggy Wagers made the Dean's List for Academic Achievement at Indiana Business College in Columbus. Both completed the fall quarter with a grade average of *A*. To make the Dean's List one must have an *A* average for the quarter.

Alice is a D.S.T. and Peggy is in Food Service. Both women have met and addressed various challenges in order to achieve academic success.

Alice, a graduate of Daleville High School, received a Bookkeeping Diploma from Indiana Business College in Muncie. Known as A.J. by her co-workers, she will celebrate her 15th year at Muscatatuck this December. Occasionally A.J. fills in as a Q.M.A.

A.J. is working toward an Associate Degree in two arenas, Accounting and Business Administration. She has made the Dean's List for each of her five completed quarters.

After work, A.J. goes home, sleeps for an hour, feeds her cats and then is off to class.

The mother of an eight-year old, Peggy graduated from Jennings County High School. Her schedule includes classes five days a week and a full work week at central kitchen. After class Peggy returns home to care for family needs and completes homework.

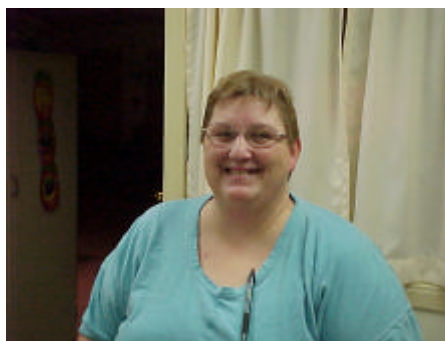
Peggy is enrolled in the fourth of six

quarters required for her Associates Degree in Business Administration. Two of the three completed quarters have resulted in Peggy making the Dean's List.

Student loans and training funds make attending school possible for both women.

Do you know of a staff person who might be a possible candidate to be highlighted in this column? If so, give the information via the hotline at 1-800-903-9822. Please leave your name and phone number so that we may contact you.

### ***Hats off to A.J. and Peggy***



Alice Miller



Peggy Wagers

## **Report on the Required SB 217 Muscatatuck State Developmental Center Public Hearing**

A public hearing to gather input about the effects of closing Muscatatuck State

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setting

Developmental Center (MSDC) was held at the Jennings County library in North Vernon on November 6, 2002. Approximately 150 individuals attended. The hearing was an opportunity for the public to present testimony to a panel

comprised of Family and Social Services Administration staff and members of the Southeast Regional Advisory Panel.

Family members, advocates for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities, staff from Muscatatuck, and Mayor John Hill of North Vernon were all present to voice their thoughts. Issues commented on included client and community safety, client benefits and economic impacts of the center's closure. However, the most often expressed concern was that of the quality of care the client would receive if placed in a community setting. Questions were raised about the guidelines group homes must follow, degrees of supervision, levels of facility readiness, and the need for knowledgeable, skilled staff.

Concerns were also expressed about services clients would receive once Muscatatuck is closed and community placements have occurred. Additionally, both staff and family members asked if covered benefits would change.

Testimonies concluded with Mayor Hill voicing his express beliefs that MI/DD

individuals would suffer both physical and mental stress by moving to a group home. The second issue raised by Mayor Hill was that of the fiscal impact the closing would create. Mayor Hill estimated the closing would bring about the loss of 800 jobs in North Vernon and cost the community some \$25 million per year in revenues.

Many questions were raised at the hearing, and this newsletter will begin a Question and Answer section in the January issue to help provide more information.



### **FSSA REGIONAL PLANNING SERIES – PART I**

The Southeast Regional Planning Task Force has worked diligently over the past year to make services available in the 18-county region. The outreach and transition teams currently help link those in need with community-based services, ensuring that all services – at home, in the community, or in a facility – are of high quality. Work is well underway toward a 2004 completion of the new regional center in Madison. And, proposals for four-bedroom homes for the medically fragile in the Jennings County area are also being evaluated. Local input was key in determining needed services.

As FSSA moves forward with creating a permanent Southeast Regional Advisory Board, we are starting to work on the next service regions in Indiana: Northeast and Central. An array of services will be available to people with developmental disabilities, mental illness, and addictions. To make sure that occurs, funds will need to be directed away from institutions and placed into community-based services.

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The Governor's Commission on Home and Community-Based Services will assist FSSA in building the community capacity to serve citizens around the state. The Commission will work with local individuals and entities, and a number of state agencies to find ways to improve the quality and increase the availability of community service options. For the cost of serving one person in an institution, three people can be served in the community. By balancing the system to no longer emphasize facilities, more people can get assistance and get it sooner.

FSSA cannot, as had been planned, close Muscatatuck State Developmental Center in June 2003 or close the Evansville Psychiatric Children's Center. The cost of operating these facilities is more than \$56M a year for MSDC and \$3.3M for EPCC – funds that cannot be used for community-based services.

Therefore the Governor's Commission on Home and Community-Based Services will conduct meetings over the next year to hear about needed services and barriers in the current long-term care system. It has established task forces and a consumer advisory committee to produce specific short and long-term strategies to address challenges, such as a lack of trained caregivers or insufficient transportation.

The only way of discovering  
the limits of the possible is to  
venture a little way past them  
into the impossible.

*Arthur C. Clarke*

### Indiana seniors get some relief

Indiana seniors may need help this winter and in the coming year as the Social Security cost-of-living increase is a nominal 1.4% while the Medicare monthly premium is increased to \$58.70.

Seniors eligible for HoosierRx can now receive more than a 50% discount on the cost of their prescription medications -directly at their pharmacy- rather than waiting for a refund check.

HoosierRx is Indiana's prescription drug plan for seniors. It has recently transitioned from a refund program to a drug card program. The card allows eligible seniors to receive their medication discounts without waiting.

They will receive their 50% discount on prescriptions until they reach their yearly benefit limit of either \$500, \$750 or \$1000. These limits are based on income. Even after reaching their limit, they should continue to use their HoosierRx Drug Card for other available discounts.

HoosierRx is enrolling Indiana seniors statewide with plans to help as many as 30,000 persons by June 2003.

To be eligible for the HoosierRx Drug Card, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- Age 65 or older.
- No prescription drug coverage through insurance or Medicaid, including Medicaid with a spend-down.
- Monthly income must be less than \$997 for a single or widowed individual or less than \$1,344 for a married couple living together.

To apply for the HoosierRx Drug Card or to receive more information call toll-free at 1-866-267-4679 or visit the HoosierRx web-site at [www.IN.gov/HoosierRx](http://www.IN.gov/HoosierRx).